



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND  
2050 WORTH ROAD  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCHO-CL-Q

12 Sep 03

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENs/MEDDACs

SUBJECT: Army Medical Department (AMEDD) System-Wide Implementation of MEDCOM Regulation 40-48, Fires Associated with the Performance of Surgical Procedures

1. The attached MEDCOM Regulation 40-48, "Fires Associated with the Performance of Surgical Procedures", dated 20 August 2003, is the third Medical Command (MEDCOM) policy document written to provide standardized procedures to improve patient safety throughout the AMEDD.
2. The regulation was developed by the General Surgery Consultant in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Policy and Services.
3. The process detailed in MEDCOM Regulation 40-48 supercedes all local medical treatment facility (MTF) policies and is required to be implemented and followed in all MTFs with Surgical Services. The policy implementation should be completed NLT 30 September 2003.
4. Points of contact for this policy are LTC Steven Grimes, Chief, MEDCOM Patient Safety Program at (210) 221-6195 and COL Stephen Hetz, General Surgery Consultant at (913) 569-3970.
5. Thank you for your support and commitment to patient safety and military medicine as we work together to....*Make the Safest Way the Best Way!*

FOR THE COMMANDER

Encl

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard L. Ursone".

RICHARD L. URSONE  
Brigadier General  
Assistant Surgeon General for Force  
Projection